

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 00690 240457Z

ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7496

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: BENC NP

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: SECOND WATER AND SEWAR

PROJECT FOR KATHMANDU

REF: STATE 037589

1. PROJECT IN WHICH ENGINEERING SCIENCE IS CURRENTLY WORKING IS THE FIRST WORLD BANK WATERAND SEWAGE LOAN PROJECT NOT REPEAT NOT SUBJECT PROJECT. THIS FIRST LOAN PROJECT, FOR WHICH ENGINEERING SCIENCE HOLDS THE CONSULTANCY/SUPERVISION CONTRACT IS AN ADVANCED STAGE OF IMPLEMENTATION.

2. WORLD BANK LOAN FOR SUBJECT PROJECT, WHICH EVIDENTALLY WILL CONSIST ESSENTAILLY OF AN EXPANSION OF WORKS UNDERTAKEN UNDER THE FIRST LOAN, IS STILL BEING NEGOTIATED. A THREE-MAN WSSB TEAM IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART FOR THE U.S. LATER THIS WEEK FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE WORLD BANK IN THIS REGARD.

3. AS THIS IS A SEPARATE PROJECT, IT WILL ENTAIL A SEPARATE CONSULTANCY CONTRACT, AND WSSB WILL BE ENTERTAINING OFFERS FROM OTHER FIRMS. THE USUAL "SHORT LIST" PROCEDURE PRESUMABLY WILL BE FOLLOWED, THAT IS, INVITATIONS TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS WILL BE SENT TO A LIST OF FIVE OR SIX PREQUALIFIED COMPANIES. TO COMPETE FOR INCLUSION ON SHORT LIST WE SUGGEST THAT METCALF AND EDDY EXPRESS ITS INTEREST BOTH TO THE
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WORLD BANK IN THE U.S. AND TO RATNA M. SHRESTHA, PROJECT IN-CHARGE, KATHMANDU WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECT, KATHMANDU WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD. HOWEVER, ENGINEERING SCIENCE IS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN THIS SECOND PROJECT AND ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE SHORT LIST. BECAUSE OF THE TENDENCY TO DISTRIBUTE THE NATIONALITIES OF THE FIRMS ON THE SHORT LIST AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE AMONG

WORLD BANK MEMBERSHIP, THE PROBABILITY OF INCLUSION OF A SECOND U.S. FIRM IS CORRESPONDINGLY REDUCED. IN ANY EVENT, IF ALL GOES WELL WITH FINALIZATION OF THE WORLD BANK LOAN, SHORT LIST INVITATIONS WILL PROBABLY BE ISSUED SOMETIME THIS SUMMER.

4. THE NUMBER OF "QUALIFIED" -- EVEN BY LOCAL STANDARDS -- ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS IN NEPAL IS NOT LARGE AT BEST, AND EVEN THEIR EXPERIENCE TENDS TO BE PRIMARILY IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION MORE THAN IN SUCH SPECIALIZED WORK AS THIS. THE FOLLOWING, HOWEVER, ARE THE NAMES OF A FEW POTENTIAL CANDIDATES: (A) J.B. PRADHAN CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS, 7/9 TAHACHAL, KATHMANDU; (B) S.M. RIMAL CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS, NAXAL, KATHMANDU; (C) TEAM CONSULTANTS, THAPATHALI, KATHMANDU; (D) CBC GROUP, JAMAL, KATHMANDU. OF THE ABOVE, THE FIRST TWO ARE PROBABLY BY FAR THE MOST EXPERIENCED AND WELL KNOWN.
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